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CURRENT LEGAL PERIODICALS AND BOOK REVIEWS.

A BRIEF SURVEY OF EQUITY JURISDICTION; BEING A SERIES OF ARTICLES REPRINTED FROM THE "HARVARD LAW REVIEW." By C. C. LANGDELL, LL.D., Dane Professor of Law in Harvard University, Emeritus. Pp. 303. Cambridge: The Harvard Law Review Association. 1905.

Under this title are grouped twelve articles published severally in the *Harvard Law Review*, and forming together an essay on the most conspicuous features of equity jurisdiction. As a whole, it is a work especially valuable to one who would know the bases on which the decisions rest, and who is not content to confine himself to a narrower study of the text-books and cases with the sole view of finding what is the law on a particular point, regardless of why it is so, or what influences have been concerned in its formation, and may bring about its destruction and replacement. A breadth of view as here expressed is indispensable to the lawyer who has to take a step free and alone, away from the beaten track, unguided by precedent, and dependent solely on a comprehensive grasp of the principles. For this reason the book possesses a distinct excellence. It is so evidently the result of a keen, persistent, and thorough analysis of the decisions, that one cannot but read with respect and attention the theories which are advanced, and have confidence that every material element has been carefully considered before the accomplished result has been set forth.

It is not a book to be hastily referred to for concrete suggestions. The principles and the reasoning are given clearly and connectedly, but they must be applied, and before this can be successfully done one must go into the subject to some depth. It is a very valuable treatise, and will no doubt take a permanent place among the standard works of law.

E. S. R.

THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. By WESTEL W. WILLOUGHBY, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University. New York: The Century Company. 1904.

The author of this work is editor of the "American State Series," consisting of eight volumes which describe the man-

ner in which the governmental agencies of the American state are organized and administered.

This book was written as an introductory essay to the series. In it the author has endeavored to ascertain the constitutional character of the American state. This has been done by considering the nature of a "Federal" state, followed by a discussion of the status of the states at the time the Constitution was adopted. The much mooted question of state sovereignty is then very ably and clearly set forth. After describing the relation between the National Government and the states, the question of the annexation and rule by the National Government of the territories and peoples of which these political elements are composed is very fully commented upon; finally, a description of the relations which exist between the several states themselves. In the back of the book is found a very valuable "Bibliographical Note" which contains a list of the various sources of information and authorities regarding the Constitutional Law of the United States.

Throughout the work the author has set forth and explained with great clearness the different theories which have been held from time to time in regard to constitutional questions. In each case he points out which theory is in his opinion the correct one, and to what extent the authorities are in accord with it.

G. S.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF INSURANCE. By WILLIAM REYNOLDS VANCE, Professor of Law in the George Washington University, Washington, D. C. Pp. 683. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Company. 1904.

In this most recent text-book on insurance law a comprehensive treatment of each division of that branch of law is presented. The book is divided into seventeen chapters, and while no division into parts is made, the following logical arrangement of chapters readily suggests itself: Part I, chapters one to eleven, dealing with the general principles governing insurance contract—viz., historical sketch of insurance, contract, nature and requisites thereof, parties, insurable interest, consideration, consent of parties (concealment and representations and warranties), insurance agents and their power, rights under the policy. Part II, chapters twelve to seventeen, detailed consideration of particular kinds of insurance policies—viz., the standard fire policy, terms of the life policy, marine insurance, accident insurance, guaranty, credit, and liability insurance.

Professor Vance shows so thorough a knowledge of his